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Tragedy in Atlanta

A Painter Kills a Young Lady and then Inflicts a Fatal Wound on Himself.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 24.—Walter Hightower, a painter, shot and instantly killed early today Miss Bessie Jones, a young woman 18 years old, and then turned the weapon on himself, putting a bullet into his own brain. He died several hours later at a hospital. Hightower leaves a wife and three children. Miss Jones had been an inmate of the Hightower home since last July, and between her and her murderer an infatuation was said to have existed, on account of which Mrs. Hightower had left the house, however, returning later. Mrs. Hightower sent her eight-year-old son to waken Miss Jones about 8 o'clock this morning.—The boy discovered his father in the room with the young woman. When the father saw his son he fired the fatal shots.

The Rioting in Mississippi—Origin of the Trouble.

Meridian, Miss., December 24.—According to reports received here tonight, the negroes for miles around have congregated in the town of Wahalak, forty miles north of this city and all during this afternoon have paraded the streets threatening vengeance on the whites because of the killing of one negro and the wounding of another by a conductor on a passenger train on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad yesterday morning while the latter was attempting to quell a disturbance aboard his train. At the town of Wahalak scarcely more than 25 white persons reside and in response to a plea for protection, Battery I, and Company D, of the State militia stationed in this city have been ordered to proceed to the scene with all dispatch. They left aboard a special train at 10 o'clock and should reach Wahalak by midnight. The battery by instructions carried a Gatling gun and all the men are heavily armed.

At 8.30 o'clock a message from Scooba, the first station south of the scene of the trouble, states that a clash has occurred between the races with the result that two white men were killed. This report, however, has not been verified, although railroad officials admit receiving a message detailing some additional trouble.

The trouble of yesterday morning originated while the train was between Wahalak and Scooba in a fight between two negroes. Conductor Cooper, who was in charge of the train, attempted to separate the combatants, when he was attacked by a negro known as Spencer. After

receiving several dangerous knife wounds Cooper fired on his assailant, seriously wounding him and killing an unknown person. When Wahalak was reached, Spencer though badly wounded left the train, and when Constable O'Brien, of that place attempted to effect his capture, the negro shot and killed the officer. Spencer then escaped to the woods with a well organized posse in pursuit. At last reports the negro had succeeded in evading his pursuers.

A Flucky Judge—How he Foiled the Attempt of a Crazy Man to Kill Him.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—A desperate effort was made to assassinate Judge Charles S. Cutting, of the Probate Court, the assailant being Frank F. Ellerbrock, of 810 North California avenue. Ellerbrock is believed to be insane. Judge Cutting escaped injury by a hair's breadth and overpowered his assailant after a fierce fight.

As the Judge entered the Criminal Court building on his way to his chambers Ellerbrock, who was standing in the hallway, stepped forward and when within two feet of Judge Cutting, drew a revolver and fired. Judge Cutting instantly turned and struck his assailant a heavy blow in the face, almost knocking him down. Before Ellerbrock could recover Judge Cutting grabbed him by the throat and threw him backwards over a steam radiator, where he held him despite the man's efforts to escape. Deputy Sheriffs Broderick and Wilson, who had heard the shot, hastened to the assistance of Judge Cutting and wrested the revolver from Ellerbrock. Judge Cutting then allowed Ellerbrock to rise from the radiator and the man attempted to attack him once more. The two men struggled back and forth across the hallway and the Judge with the assistance of deputy sheriffs, finally threw Ellerbrock to the floor. Ellerbrock fought until exhausted. He then commenced to beg for mercy, saying "Don't hurt me; please don't hurt me."

He was taken into the office of Deputy Sheriff Steinert, where he refused to give any information regarding himself. He was then taken to the police station, where his name was ascertained.

Judge Cutting throughout the excitement remained cool. After seeing that Ellerbrock was safe in custody he went on to his Court room and within a few minutes was transacting business as usual.

—The name of John Henry Clyburn was accidentally omitted from the roll of honor in the central graded school for last quarter. He deserves this mention both in attendance and scholarship.

Five Christmas Casualties. Three Suicides and Two Fatal Accidents in Georgia Add to the Death Roll.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 26.—Five more Christmas casualties were reported today:

J. W. Caldwell, of Taylorville, Ga., near Stilesboro, committed suicide early this morning by shooting. No cause is known.

Harvie Mangess, of Mineral Bluff, Ga., committed suicide with a revolver Christmas day. He left a family.

The little daughter of J. C. Hughes, at East Newman, was burned to death Christmas, by her dress catching fire.

Sherry Brannon, 10 year old, of Eufaula, Ala., was setting off fire-works when a Roman candle struck him in the forehead, knocking him down. His head struck a curbing and his neck was broken.

Wilson Morrey, 32 years old, committed suicide with a revolver 12 miles south of Columbus, Ga. Ill health is given as the cause.

Sheriff Rogers, at Hawkinsville, Ga., today shot and killed Luther Morris, a negro, who was resisting arrest. Morris was wanted for the murder of his sweetheart Stella Flanders, by cutting her throat.

Harry Hargrove, aged 22, was shot and instantly killed at Eastman, Ga., in a quarrel with John Groover Burch this afternoon. Both are prominently connected.

—Mrs. M. J. Perry and Miss Nannie Crockett gave a Christmas tree to the primary class of the Presbyterian Sunday school Tuesday afternoon at the residence of Col. J. N. Crockett which was much enjoyed.

—The Christmas tree at the Methodist church Xmas night was a big success and much commendation is due the committee in charge of it. 125 presents, besides as many bags of fruits and confections, were distributed to the members of the Sunday school.

—Mr. E. F. Hammond and Miss Beulah Mobley, both of Heath Springs, were married in that town, Christmas eve night.

Conductor King has gone to Charlotte to attend Shriner's meeting.

Mr. S. B. Carnes of Clinton, S. C., spent the past week at his father's, Mr. W. A. Carnes', in this county.

Mr. Ed. C. Croxton and Miss Alma T. Duncan were married at the home of the bride's parents at Heath Springs Thursday night, Rev. J. Marion Rogers officiating.

Mr. Roy Dunn, a student of Davidson College, is spending the Xmas vacation at his mother's near Jacksonham.

White Man Killed by a Negro in Barnwell County—Lynching Narrowly Averted.

Special to The State.

Springfield, Dec. 26.—Yesterday morning about 10 o'clock Tiney Chavis, a white man, went to the house of Stevephney Clemens, a negro tenant on the place of Henry Cooper, about four miles from Springfield, and asked him for a small sum of money due him by the negro. Clemens told him he did not have the money, and Chavis, it is alleged, began cursing him.

Clemens shoved Chavis out of the door and picked up his gun, and followed him out into the yard and shot him dead. Chavis was not armed. The negro was captured about the house of Mr. Cooper, and after much difficulty gotten to Springfield and delivered to Magistrate A. B. Corbett, who sent him over to Barnwell to prevent the friends of Chavis lynching him.

Considerable excitement was manifested at the inquest, and it was at times as much as the magistrate could do to keep the friends of Chavis from taking the law in their own hands.

To add to the seriousness of the situation a very impertinent mulatto by the name of Livingston, who has been staying in New York city for the last year or two, made himself very important in asking questions, with the result that he is nursing a broken head and anointing a well tanned skin today.

A Killing on Christmas Day.

But for a difficulty between two negroes, Jim Haden and Lovich Heath, in which the latter was killed, the Christmas holidays passed off very quietly in this county. The difficulty between Heath and Haden occurred Christmas day in the eastern suburbs of town. Whiskey was the cause of the trouble between them, each having accused the other of selling it illegally. In the difficulty Haden was wounded and stepping into a house picked up a shot gun, stepped to the door and fired at Heath, the lead taking effect in the side of his face and neck. The wounded man died from the effect of the wound about two hours afterwards. Haden fled but was later captured by Sheriff Hunter and lodged in jail.

—Mr. J. M. Stewart, formerly of this place, lost everything he had by fire at Camden early Christmas morning. The roof of his home was almost falling in when the fire was discovered and the family barely escaped with their lives. Mr. Stewart had some insurance on his household effects.

—Married, in Atlanta, Ga., Thursday, Dec. 20, 1906, Mr. George Humphreys of that city and Miss Theo Reed, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Reed of this place. Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys came to Lancaster the following day and spent the Christmas with the bride's parents.

Bishop A. Coke Smith Dead.

Noted Bishop of Southern Methodist Church Passes Away at His Home in Asheville.

Special to The Observer.

Asheville, Dec. 27.—Bishop A. Coke Smith, of the Southern Methodist Church, died here tonight suddenly at 8 o'clock at his residence on Merriam avenue. Death was due to heart failure. Bishop Smith was a sufferer from tuberculosis and came here nearly two years ago in search of health. He was confined to his bed for a time. Once it was thought that he could not recover. However, he rallied to attend the last session of the Western North Carolina Conference. He filled the pulpit of the Central church here several times during the summer and early fall, and was gradually regaining his lost health. Surviving are a widow and several children.

The remains will be taken to Norfolk, Va., the former home of Bishop Smith, tomorrow afternoon, accompanied by members of the family.

Bishop Smith, was 57 years of age, having been born in Sumter county, South Carolina, September 16, 1849. He was a son of Rev. W. H. and Isabella Smith, his mother before marriage being a McLeod. He was graduated from Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C., in 1872, receiving in 1874 the degree of A. M. He became a doctor of divinity in 1887, by act of Erskine College, Due West, S. C.

It was at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held at Dallas, Tex., in May of 1902, that Dr. Smith attained his crowning distinction, being elected bishop. This office he held unto his death.

Bishop Smith was an original thinker and a forceful speaker. He was well known throughout this section. About four years ago he was for one year a resident of Charlotte. He was during his career, pastor at Cherokee, Columbia, Charleston and South Carolina points. While pastor of Epworth, Norfolk, Va., in 1902, was elected bishop. Two years ago he removed to Asheville for his health.

Death of Mr. W. A. Faile.

Mr. Wm. A. Faile, of Longville section, died last day, Dec. 23rd, 1906, after short illness of pneumonia. He was about 50 years of age and leaves surviving him a widow and four children. He was a member of the Baptist church and was a good man and citizen. His remains were interred in the family burying ground near Taxahaw.

—Don't forget that the time for the payment of taxes without penalty expires next Monday.